

# AETC News Clips



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12 Dec 01

Military

## Busy Seguin veterans clinic faces closure

By Roger Croteau

Express-News Staff Writer

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SEGUIN — A popular veterans clinic at Guadalupe Valley Hospital will close at the end of this month unless a solution is found to an impasse between the hospital and the Veterans Administration.

The clinic serves about 400 veterans, twice as many as was expected when it was started a year ago, said Martin Boyle, an attorney for the Veterans Administration.

The biggest problem, according to Guadalupe Valley Hospital Administrator Don Richey, is that no local doctors are willing to review patient charts as the VA requires.

Patients at the clinic are seen by a nurse practitioner, who reviews their health status and gets low-cost prescriptions if needed. The charts from every patient's initial visit, plus a random 10 percent of charts from follow-up visits, must be reviewed by a doctor to meet the VA's standard of care, Boyle said. He said private insurers have the same requirement.

But the four local internists qualified to do that work are too busy and do not want to open themselves up to the potential liability of a malpractice lawsuit from a patient they've never even seen, Richey said.

About three dozen veterans attended Tuesday's Guadalupe County Commissioners Court meeting to urge the county to find a solution to the impasse.

"It would be a dismal failure for us to see this clinic close," said area veteran Don Larson. "There are many vets who can't afford to drive to San Antonio or can't afford the high cost of prescription drugs. All I am hearing right now are excuses about why this clinic has to fail. I'm not hearing anything positive about how to make it work."

Veteran Albert Kolbe told the commissioners, "Something is wrong with our form of government if our veterans are relinquishing their privilege to health care. I think it is your obligation to look into this program and do what you can to help us."

Guadalupe County Commissioner Jim Wolverton said, "I don't see why

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Guadalupe Valley Hospital and CA Associates (which holds the VA contract to run the clinic out of the hospital) can't sit down and iron this out and get the veterans the service they deserve."

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12/12/2001

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## Pearl Harbor Day remembered and compared

LINDA S. JOHNSON

Staff Writer

With the American flag at half-staff, a mist of rain and a gathering crowd, the 60th anniversary of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor was remembered on Friday at American G.I. Forum.

Laughlin Air Force Base and San Felipe Del Rio Veterans Honor Guards presented the colors while Pastor Arnold Menchaca sang the national anthem after which Jesse Cardenas III led everyone in the pledge of allegiance. LAFB Chaplain Maj. C. Jeff Swanson gave the invocation.

Welcoming veterans and guests, Del Rio Mayor Dora G. Alcala introduced a survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor, United States Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class James Blocklinger. "We honor and salute you and others who survived and those who died that day," said Alcala.

"We, here in Del Rio, are so fortunate to have Laughlin Air Force Base to protect us," said Alcala. "When the Sept. 11 attack happened - it happened to Americans much as Pearl Harbor happened, the first person to call my office was the 47th Flying Training Wing Vice-Commander Col. George T. Doran. He said to me, 'Mayor, we are here for you.'"

Introducing retired U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Gerald Prather, as master of ceremonies, Alcala said of Prather, "Gen. Prather not only served his country, but after his retirement he settled in Del Rio and now serves his city."

Prather introduced Doran, the main speaker for the Day of Remembrance. "Lt. Kenneth Taylor got the first plane in the air after the Japanese attacked our forces on Pearl Harbor. In his statement to his commanding officer he told of getting in line with the Japanese planes and started shooting them down. And, he did all this while wearing tuxedo pants because during all the confusion of the initial attack they were the only pants he could find."

Doran compared the attacks of 1941 and 2001 by saying that both attacks were carefully planned and executed by freedom hating peoples.

"They were similar in execution and aftermath results," said Doran. "Our nation found out what national unity was in 1941 and was reminded of it again with the Sept. 11 attack on our country." He said that the course of America's history was changed on Dec. 7, 1941 and it was irrevocably changed again on Sept. 11.

Val Verde County Judge Mike Fernandez, whose brother was a World War II veteran in the South Pacific campaign, was the second guest speaker. "Today should be a very important day in the lives and hearts of every American,"

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said Fernandez. "The enemy showed their expertise like an expert gambler with a throw of the dice. They just didn't gamble on the 'sleeping giant' they awakened." He shared that in 1941 the starting pay for a private in the United States military was \$21 per month and after Dec. 7 it went to \$50. More than 20 World War II veterans over the age of 80 were honored at the ceremonies. Event organizer Jesse Cardenas introduced each man by giving his name, branch of service, Pacific or European

campaign served and a small antidote about that veteran.

Before Prather closed the ceremonies he announced that an unexpected ceremony would take place and he would perform the formalities. "Rudolfo Martinez Sr., served in the U.S. Navy as a petty officer during the Korean War. He was born and raised in Del Rio. Recently, an order came down from the Department of the Navy that Martinez has been awarded a 'combat action ribbon'.

"Reading from the order, 'The Chief of Naval Operations takes pleasure in forwarding the combat action ribbon in recognition of your participation in ground or surface combat.' And, it is my honor to present you this ribbon," said Prather as he called the company to attention and pinned the ribbon on Martinez's lapel.

The ceremonies were closed with a 21 gun salute by SFDR Veterans Honor Guard and taps by Mauro Prado.



News-Herald photo by Linda S. Johnson

During the Day of Remembrance ceremonies, on Friday, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, USAF retire Maj. Gen. Gerald Prather presented to former US Navy Petty Officer Rudolfo Martinez the 'combat action ribbon' for his combat tour during the Korean conflict.

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# Christmas gala, parade well attended Mayor, Santa light Christmas tree

ALEJANDRA VALDEZ

Staff Writer

The Christmas Gala and Fourth Annual Night Parade, sponsored by the Del Rio Beautification Foundation's Christmas Committee, took place Saturday.

The Gala, scheduled to have begun at 5 p.m., took a while to get going, but finally kicked off with Master of Ceremonies Hector Flores introducing the first speaker of the day, Mayor Dora G. Alcalá.

"Muy buenas noches. Good evening. 'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas,'" sang Alcalá, who then began to explain that the Greenwood Park tree lighting has been a Del Rio tradition and now the Christmas Night Parade is, too.

"I'm a person of tradition and tradition is good so you can know what to expect every year," said Alcalá.

Alcalá closed her speech in Spanish saying she hoped everyone enjoyed themselves at the evening's events.

The program began with the Rondalla de la Casa de la Cultura performing Noche de

Paz and Feliz Navidad under the direction of Arturo Treviño. The group sang and played their guitars as Christmas Gala Emcees Flores and Robert Wade held microphones up to the performers because of sound system difficulties.

The audience size slowly grew as time for the parade neared, despite the chill in the air. Next to perform were El Balet Folklorico Del Rio de la Casa de la Cultura, under the direction of Alejandra Granato.

Following a poet declaring his own works, Robert Wade sang "God Bless the U.S.A." and was joined on-stage by three more performers to sing Christmas carols as a wait for the arrival of the second speaker, Col. Rick Rosborg, 47th Flying Training Wing Commander at Laughlin Air Force Base. The group sang "Silent Night" and "I'll be home for Christmas."

About this time a fire engine blew its horn and the audience ran away charging towards

Main Street thinking the Christmas Night Parade was about to begin. When Rosborg took the stage, night had fallen and the kiosk at the park did not have lights. Rosborg had to read his notes by flashlight.

Rosborg said Christmas has always been the time of year to look back and that is especially true this year with the events of Sept. 11.

"There's a lot of servicemen at Laughlin who will not be home for Christmas, but their absence should not take away from our remembering that this is the birth of our King," said Rosborg. Mayor Alcalá returned on stage and Santa Claus, who arrived on a fire engine, joined her to light the Christmas tree as the Del Rio tradition goes.

With the Christmas tree lit, the last remaining members of the audience left the park and headed for the already parade-spectator-full South Main Street for the Christmas Parade.

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The parade reached the stands in front of the Del Rio National Bank close to 7 p.m. with the Del Rio Police Department's motorcycle units leading the way.

The Christmas Parade opened with the San Felipe Del Rio Veterans Honor Guard carrying the Colors and a show of local law enforcement agencies that included DRPD, Val Verde County Sheriff's

Department, U.S. Customs, U.S. Border Patrol and Laughlin Air Force Base. Grand marshal for the Christmas Parade was to have been Marta Galindo, Texas Teacher of the Year.

Mayor Dora G. Alcala followed riding in a yellow Dodge Prowler. Among the 50 entries were Miss Del Rio Katie Sutherland and her court, LAFB's 47th Contracting Squadron dressed in military gear. Centro Cristiano Amistad had singers dressed in green and standing at different heights to appear

as a Christmas tree. Schools participating included Lamar, Sacred Heart, Buena Vista, North Heights, Lonnie Green and Garfield.

First place went to the Del Rio Spirit League whose float had a toy land theme. East Side's Valentine's Court earned second place for dressing as the participants of the nativity scene for their float. Marching and dancing entries included the Del Rio High School ROTC Blue Tops, the Queen City Belles and the San Felipe Middle School Band and two groups of

"Matachines."

The Fourth Annual Christmas Parade was 50 entries long and was emceed by Jim Bush. Judges for the parade floats were seated on bleachers located in front of the Del Rio National Bank. Scores had not yet been tallied for the marching entries, so winners were not immediately announced.

Although the event had a

slow beginning with the Christmas Gala, the parade was a great success. The Christmas parade closed with Santa's elves riding a burro-pulled wagon leading Santa Claus, who rode in a fire engine, as he made his way to the Whitehead Museum to greet children who had gathered there after the parade had ended to meet him.



News-Herald photo by Alejandra Valdez

A singing Christmas tree was part of the Centro Cristiano Amistad float which participated in Saturday's Fourth Annual Christmas Parade. The chilly night air did not stop hundreds from standing along South Main Street for the 50-entry parade that closed with Santa riding on a fire truck.

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News-Herald photo by Brian Argabright

Bethaney Baiocco was the winner of Border Federal Credit Union's Wild Game Loan promotion. Baiocco's name was selected in a drawing and she won a Ruger Mark 77 .270 bolt action deer rifle with carrying case. Presenting Baiocco with the rifle are Gene Hendrix of Russell's True Value and Ginger Lyons of Border Federal Credit Union.



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# Recruiter offices move into new space

LINDA S. JOHNSON

Staff Writer

It is hard enough to maintain a recruiting schedule, but moving and recruiting is all in a day's work for the Air Force, Army, Marines and Navy recruiters stationed in Del Rio.

Del Rio's four recruiters were in small offices in the La Villita Shopping Center for many years. On Nov. 13 they moved to Del Rio Plaza Suites and now they have spacious attractive offices. Their offices must not only host potential recruits in an appealing manner, but they also must act as storage for brochures, pictures, posters, flags and paperwork that recruiters use everyday.

As a potential recruit enters the building the first office he or she will see is the U.S. Air Force. Proceeding down the hall one will find the U.S. Navy recruiting office, U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Army, in that order. Each of the recruiters is happy to have the improved facilities.

Recruiting for their respective branches of the military isn't just about the offices they occupy. Armed services recruiters travel throughout the district speaking at high schools, individuals and special public functions. They take part in special ceremonies and celebrations and are active in the communities in which they serve. These recruiters are responsible for 9700 square miles of territory surrounding Del Rio.

United States Air Force Recruiter S.Sgt. Pedro Lozano is in the first and smallest office in the new suite. "The Air Force said that this is a one-man office and one man can handle it," said Lozano. "These offices are better than those we have just moved from." Lozano has signed three new people into the Air Force since moving to the new facilities. He said his goal is growing each month.

Lozano is from San Angelo and he says that he is the perfect example of what the Air Force can do for a recruit. "I grew up in a poor family," said Lozano. "In the Air Force I was able to earn two bachelor degrees; one in child development and one in communications, compete in power lifting, travel, meet new people and grow as a person."

Like his neighbor, United States Navy Recruiter-in-Charge DC2 (Damage Control: firefighter) Vincent Macias is enjoying the new larger offices. Macias has been in the Navy eight years and he enjoys his recruiting position. "Education is important," said Macias. "Our high tech schools teach more than what is needed to do that job, they also teach the people how to interact with shipmates in the same and relating fields to get the job done."

Macias, trying to talk between incoming calls, said that his office has signed seven

new recruits since moving to the new facilities. While impressed with the new offices, Macias believes in the way of life the Navy offers. The Navy's new slogan is "Accelerate Your Life."

Several United States Marine Corps recruiters share the new business quarters. Neither U.S.M.C. Sgt.

Rolando Pincena nor Pfc. Nela Gomez, newly graduated from boot camp at Parris Island, feels that the recruiting business has slowed down since moving into the new facilities. Pincena said the Marines gained five new recruits since Nov. 13.

Gomez, a native of Del Rio, is here for a 30-day Hometown Recruiting stint. She said that going through basic training has changed her as a person and has given her confidence in her own abilities.

The latest of the new recruits to be signed into the U.S. military is Gilda Lopez. Lopez has enlisted in the Marine Corps and Pincena was not impressed by her when they first met but he quickly changed his mind once he learned how serious Lopez is in her quest to further her career in law enforcement.

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"When I first met her I didn't realize from her age or demeanor that she was serious about the Corps," said Pincena. "I found Lopez's testing scores very high, she has an excellent academic career and I have found her to be a very intelligent young woman."

Lopez graduated from Del Rio High School ahead of her age group with a 3.35 grade point average. Her parents have signed the permission papers for her to join the Corps. She said that she wants to be a Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent. "I know that I can get the training, discipline and education I need from the Marine Corps to accomplish what I want to do with my life," said Lopez. At 17, Lopez said she knows where she wants to take her life and not just let life take her along.

United States Army Staff Sgt. Paul Campuzano is the recruiter in the office furthest from the front entrance of the new suite, but he is quite satisfied with the Army's new recruiting facility. Campuzano, from San Diego, Calif., has been stationed in Del Rio for 18 months and likes the duty. He said the new space is 10 times better than the old space and it is more 'eye pleasing'.

Del Rio's Army Recruiting Station is part of the Army's 5th Brigade. In 2001 this recruiting station was awarded 'Top Middle Station for Recruiting' and the Eagle award for the most linguists recruited from the Del Rio area. Campuzano explained the term 'linguist' covers several categories in intelligence and communications.

Campuzano also has a hometown recruiter on assignment to his office for 14 days. Newly graduated from basic training is Brackettville native Pvt. Michael Garcia. "Garcia graduated in the top 5 percent of his class and will report to duty at Fort Hood when he is finished in Del Rio," said Campuzano. "He is one of my recruits."

The new recruiting offices are in the Del Rio Plaza Suites, 1601 Ave. F Suite 3, and each branch of the military has their own recruiting phone number: U.S.A.F. at 830-774-0911, U.S.N. at 830-774-0184, U.S.M.C. at 830-775-4609 and U.S. Army at 830-774-2580.

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News-Herald photo by Linda S. Johnson  
 Recruiters stationed in Del Rio are enjoying their new offices in the Del Rio Plaza  
 Pictured, from left, are United States Army Staff Sgt. Paul Campuzano, United States  
 Marine Corps Pfc. Nela Gomez (a native of Del Rio), United States Navy DC2 Vincent  
 Macias and United States Air Force Staff Sgt. Pedro Lozano.

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# Property owner on trial in shooting

## Defense says border case Mexico vs. U.S.

BY JOHN MACCORMACK  
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

DEL RIO — The attempted murder trial of Glenn Patrick Bordelon opened Monday in state court with a prosecutor describing a simple border shooting while a defense lawyer talked about international warfare.

Bordelon, 54, is on trial in the June 29, 1999, shooting of Ivan Misael Mendez Sepulveda, 16, of Ciudad Acuna. The Mexican youth was wounded three times after swimming the Rio Grande and either approaching or entering Bordelon's riverside property in the Vega Verde subdivision.

It is one of a half-dozen instances of shootings of Mexicans by South Texas property owners in recent years, and several Mexican consular officials were in court Monday as testimony began.



BORDELON

"This is a very important case to the Mexican government. It involves a Mexican, and border security, and the results here could influence the next one," said Roberto Canseco, the Mexican consul in Del Rio.

It immediately became clear that the strategy of Bordelon's lawyer, Steve Rozan of Houston, was to put Mexico on trial instead of his client, a Vietnam veteran with a reported history of mental illness.

"This is not a case about attempted murder or aggravated assault. This is a case about one country, Mexico, vs. another country, the United States," said Rozan in his opening statement.

"This is a case about a war zone in the Vega Verde, where you have daily confrontations with a multitude of young men who come over to burglarize and rob American homes," he said.

District Attorney Fred Hernandez, however, said the case is only about a trigger-happy Texan who shot an unarmed youth with a 12-gauge shotgun with no legal justification.

"This case is about the facts. It's about a shooting," Hernandez said. "There is no international angle as far as I'm concerned."

The case carries extra weight because it is one of two involving Bordelon, guns and young Mexicans. In the second case, which has yet to be set for trial, Bordelon is charged with murder in the Nov. 1, 1999, shooting of a Mexican youth in the river near his home.

In that incident, Luis Antonio Chavez Vaqueira, 16, died from a gunshot to the head. His body was not found until 10 days later.

Bordelon denies shooting Chavez.

The first witness to testify Monday, Lt. Larry Pope of the Val Verde County Sheriff's Department, said Bordelon freely admitted to shooting someone when questioned on the evening of

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# Landowner on trial in border shooting

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June 29, 1999.

"He was very calm, matter of fact," Pope said. "He was quite coherent."

He said Bordelon, who had complained many times to authorities of break-ins at his isolated home, described how he watched a Mexican youth cross the river with two dogs, and then come onto his property.

Bordelon said he believed the youth intended to burglarize his home, and fired his gun only after the youth ignored his demands to leave, Pope testified.

But Pope said that when he commented to Bordelon that the youth might not have been involved in any earlier burglaries, he got a response that "shocked" him.

"He said, 'The innocent are going to have to suffer with the guilty.'"

Under cross-examination, Pope conceded that the sheriff's department can do little to protect Vega Verde residents from burglars who cross over from adjacent Ciudad Acuna and then quickly flee if challenged.

Family members of the shooting victim, as well as relatives

of the Mexican youth Bordelon is accused of killing later in 1999, were in the courtroom Monday.

"I'm here looking for justice. I want to see him get the punishment he deserves," said Maria Luisa Mendez, 35, the mother of Ivan.

"My son still has a pellet in him, near his spine. He (Bordelon) should have to pay for the surgery," she said, denying that her son was involved in burglarizing any homes in the United States.

Maria del Carmen Vaquera, the mother of the youth killed in the second shooting, said she was attending in anticipation of the trial to come.

"I'm here to see how the process works," she said.

Looming over the trial was Bordelon's mental state on June 29, 1999, as well as his reported history of mental illness from his service in the Vietnam War.

Although he was found competent to stand trial, Bordelon is claiming his mental problems made it impossible for him to commit the crime with which he is charged.

"The state has to prove intent, and we intend to show that be-

cause of his condition, he did not have the rational ability to form an intent to harm someone," Rozan said.

Under cross-examination by Rozan, Pope said he was unaware of any mental problems claimed by Bordelon when he interviewed him right after the shooting, but knew of his reputation.

"All I ever heard is that he couldn't control his temper, he blows up at people. He's a bully," Pope said.

Bordelon was fired from his job at Laughlin AFB in Del Rio in June 1999, and barred from entering the base. A base spokesman declined to describe the incident that led to his dismissal.

According to his lawyer, Bordelon is 100 percent disabled because of "severe, chronic post-traumatic stress syndrome" left over from his war duty.

Military records show Bordelon did not serve inside Vietnam. Instead, during his one-year tour of war duty, he was assigned to Tapao Airfield in Thailand as a sheet-metal worker and jet mechanic.

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## Altus AFB OK Newsclips

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Altus Times photo by Valincia Todd

From left, OSC president Ann Graham, Dolores Wilson and Sandy Nichols of NBC, Ann Hampshire and Sandi Wurzer of OSC.

## Altus Officers Spouses Club donates mittens

The Altus Officers Spouses Club made a donation of mittens this week from their Fall Charity Auction.

The mittens will be distributed to area children through different agencies such as the Salvation

Army, ACMI House, Head Start, Little School Learning Center and the Base Day Care Center.

An NBC spokesperson said that they appreciate the support from the Altus OSC during the mitten drive.

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### Spouses of retired officers to be recognized



Altus Times photo by Mark Glenn

Linda West and Dotty Maffry look over old clippings of articles published in the Altus Times about the Officers Wives Club.

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